

Remarks

Applicants request consideration on the merits of the above-referenced patent application.

I. Amendments to the Claims

This Amendment cancels claims 9, 13, 18, 25, 35, 36, 45, 55, 56 and 64. Thus, claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19-24, 26-34, 37-44, 46-54, and 57-63 are pending, and are shown in the previous section. As indicated in the previous section, Applicants have amended claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19, 21, 26, 32-34, 37-39, 41, 46, 52-54, 57-59, and 61-63. These amendments do not introduce new matter. Specifically:

As discussed below, the claims have been amended in accordance with Applicants' election of Group II in response to the restriction requirement.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 8 rather than canceled claim 9. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 12 rather than canceled claim 13. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 10 rather than claim 14. Claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 19 rather than canceled claim 25. Claims 37 and 38 have been amended to depend from claim 19 rather than canceled claim 36. Claim 46 has been amended to depend from claim 39 rather than canceled claim 45. Claims 57 and 58 have been amended to depend from claim 39 rather than canceled claim 56.

The amendment to the R superscript in claims 10 and 14 is supported by Applicants' specification at, for example, page 23, lines 12-13; and original claims 26 and 46.

Other amendments correct obvious or grammatical errors, or simply rephrase the claims. Such amendments are permissible under MPEP § 2163.07.

II. Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group II to be examined. Applicants also elect the compound of claim 17 as the starting point for examination.

Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with their restriction requirement election. All the currently pending compound claims (*i.e.*, claims 1-8, 10-12, and 14-17) therefore now fall within the election. Although examination is currently restricted to these compound claims, Applicants have not canceled the method-of-use claims (*i.e.*, claims 19-24, 26-34, 37-44, 46-54, and 57-63). These method-of-use claims include all the compound

limitations of claim 1. Thus, Applicants request that they be rejoined into the application in the event that claim 1 is allowed. Under such a circumstance, this rejoinder is required:

Process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance.

MPEP § 821.04 (emphasis added).

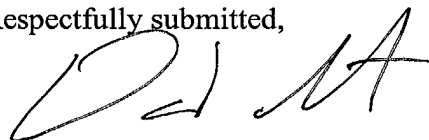
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Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and request that this application be allowed.

Applicants do not believe that they owe any fee in connection with this amendment. If, however, Applicants do owe any fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

The Examiner is requested to call the Undersigned if any issues arise that can be addressed over the phone to expedite examination of this application.

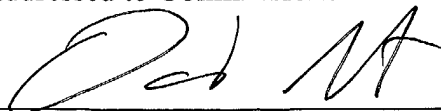
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on **June 6, 2003** with sufficient postage as first class mail (including Express Mail per MPEP § 512), and addressed to **Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**.



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